

Bristol, March 11th 1853 Friday

My dear Mr. May.

In my letter of Friday last, I did not, so much as I intended, draw your attention to the private nature of my communication. I feel however, such entire confidence in your discretion as to have no apprehensions. To the "Elect", I conclude, you will impart all I said, & it would not surprise me to learn that a "Cabinet Council" had been sat on the occasion. I was of course solicitous in no degree to violate the confidence Mr. Chamberlain reposed in me, or to compromise his position, or impede his efforts. There is, to my mind, one very hopeful amen in him, — he has no cant. Tho' I have seen him so often, I have not an idea as to his theological views; he may be a Jew, a Catholic, an episcopalian, Protestant, orthodox or Unitarian, for anything he let out to me. My belief is, that he is thoroughly liberal as regards the Creed of others, & that is sufficient for me, — I most encouraging when I think of the desperate bigotry ~~and~~ whose Anti-Slavery views he has to promote! I expect he will have many ^{imagined} a hard battle to fight, but the Com. I ~~think~~ do not know how to get out of the corner into which they are at length driven. — Mr. Cham.

has been taking much pains to settle the
quarrel in which Edward Mathews was in-
volved with Scoble & Benson. His prepossessions
are all in favour of E. M. & we have the power
of telling him the truth. I wish I could
present Ed. Mathews or idly to your notice.
He is an extraordinary person: more one-
ided than any man I ever met, - and
his one idea is help to the Slave. Some of
us formed a very erroneous impression of
him when he first came to Bristol, while
Mr Chapman & I were with us. Utterly
ignorant of the A. S. Movement, & mistaking
his zeal in the Cause for knowledge, he began
at an A. S. ^{holding} soiree to enlighten us, (Mr G.
& the Miss Westons, Geo. Thompson, ourselves!)
& upon the "Liberty Party" & found fault
with the Garrisonians for want of A. S. grace.
Poor fellow, he little knew where he was putting
his foot. G. T. came down upon him like
a clasp of the under: - he broke a fly on the
wheel: some declared he was a sheep ^{E. M.} wolf
in sheep's clothing, a "snake in the grass"
&c, &c, while at the same time, they heard from
the first time of any separation ⁱⁿ ~~between~~
the "Am. A. S. Soc." & how the "Am. Soc." was
formed! - And yet after his terrible

castigation (which drew tears from his
admirer's relatives who were at the scene
with almost astoundedment at the accusation
of "perjury" & "hypocrisy" heaped upon him)
E. M. told me he could bear anything
from G. T. as he knew it was solely for
Loring for the Slave's interests which had
led Mr. T. to speak so strongly. Of course G. T.
soon knew his place, regretted his mistake
& has ever since been on the friendliest terms
with E. M. - I have no fears of Mr. Loring
the interests of his Church before the Slave's
his excommunication is, "Perish the Baptist Sect
if it requires the holding of a single human
being in bondage, for its maintenance!"

Mr. L. had a hard experience in England.
He called on Schell early on his arrival in
England, & was abused by him in respect
to Henson, instead of being received, as Mr.
expected, with great cordiality for his
A. S. fidelity. But fidelity to the A. S. cause
was no recommendation of E. M. to
John Schell. Then he meddles with the
Comm. of the Evangelical Alliance,
hoping them to speak out against it. Slave
holders, whereupon, his Baptist brethren

full foul of him, for ^{not leaving} taking the A.S. man..
must ^{in the} ~~and~~ ^{and} the hands of the Christian world.
Next, Mr. ~~He~~ goes to the London "Baptist Union"
to ask for their countenance & sympathy
as an A.S. Baptist, who had published
in the "Book of Facts" of Mr. J. J. & him.
self, A.S. letters of the Union, which the
Am. Baptists would not publish tho' ad-
vised to them! Mr. Howard Hinckley
however, the Secy., says they can give
him no countenance, because he is
"engaged in a controversy" with John
Soble! Lastly he falls into a trap set
for him by Sobble, & on the ground of a
trifling inadvertence, a Com. of Ministers
& others, George Sturge among them,
issue a set of most cruel resolutions
against him, calculated to destroy
his usefulness for ever, & really threw
him into a state painful & dejected ^{a little}
for some months. He is now rallying
much encouraged by the aspects of the
cause, & the riddance of Sobble. His
A.S. experience in England has been, that

MS. B. 1. 6 v. 14, p. 50

2 the aid & sympathy he has met with, has
been from the Garrisonian Abol. while
he has met with only hostility from those
to whom he opposed his Baptist views,
his Ministerial profession, & his
Liberty Party opinions, would have
commended him. You should know

what was the scrape he got into.

He had with him some extracts from
Am. Papers, the Lib. &c giving some
renditions in Canada, passed against
Henson. Scoble who was carrying
Henson's collecting for Daron Institute
wanted to get L.M. to certify to Henson's
respectability. This M. could not do,
with these Docs in his pocket. Scoble
then publicly declared M. had forged
documents to damage Henson.
M. then publishes the documents
saying whence they came, presenting
no authority of his own for them, &
saying Scoble denied their genuineness.
After having circulated his statement

MS. B.1.6 v.11 p.50

he hears from Canada that at the ~~late~~ ^{dissemination} of the
last of the 4 Resol^s. he had ^{disseminated} ~~was~~ not for-
mally put. Conscious of his straight-
forwardness he accepts an invitation
to meet the Dawn Com. & Henson in
London, the Rev^d. J. Binney in the
Chair, Mr. Binney having assured him
he wd meet with only honorable treatment.
A brother only accomp^d him, who knew
little of the subject. Scoble was present
& bullied Matthews. At last a question
had ~~was~~ asked him, "had he circulated
any of his statements after hearing that
the last of the 4 Resol^s. was a forgery?" He
might have said No, for the actual
^{distribution} ~~circulation~~ was one; but recollecting,
he said, "he had given away a few"
(the number was found to be 8); that
was enough for them. — "he had circulated
a Resolution to Henson's injury knowing
it to be a false one". No allusion was
made to the 3 other Resol^s which formed
all the case, & the authenticity of which
was unquestioned. — nothing said that

with the Pres^l. was Seabell's statement
that all were false: they had caught
him, & planned a set of most crushing
Pres^l against him calculated to ruin
him -

It is well to give you this
true detail, for you may hear of
D. M.'s delinquencies - A more
truthful man I never met with:
he is not a man of education, & with
no brilliancy; a lie before these
holders' revolvers, - a timid hare
in the presence of a deep man like
Seabell trying to damage his reputation.
Now M. has cost us hours & days
of ~~trouble~~ ^{thought & effort} to help him on his troubled
course: but he has been worthy of our
pains, & tho' martyred himself,
he has been the means of showing
out some curious points in the English
A.S. movement; & has gained a vast
amount of experience, which, with
his determined character, will eventually

turn to good - I think we sent you &
Mr. former McClelland & Appendix: I will
cut out the Pros: for to refresh your memory.
The crushing Pros: of the Dan. Anti-Slavery
Committee, (a self appointed one) you
will find in the A. S. Reporter for
August (I think) of last year.

You may like to see what the "Am.
Bap. F. M. Socy" have done to help Mr. Ross.
Perhaps you may make some use of them
as Subj. at N. York. I expect the "Reporter"
will now be closed to any more of Scyller's
unfair representations, & that he declared
in the Reporter that where the "Am. A. S. Socy"
had one organ, the "Am. F. M. Socy" had 10, he
will not, I ^{imagine} ~~expect~~ find one in which he can go
on doing his wonted mischief, nor one to clear
the Socy of the "Am. F. M. Socy" from the charge brought
against him in the "British Banner" of being a
"moral assassin".

We are now trying to
start Matthews as a lecturing tour, so that he
may be doing the cause good, establishing a lec-
turing reputation & forget his troubles. Mr. Chas.
Crawford will in the next Reporter, notice lecture
given even by the "infidel" Abolitionists: but
already quoted from the Lib. & Advocate: this
will be a great evidence of change.

3) I wish to introduce to you the name of
Mr. J. W. Chappin, a young man, a clerk in the
Peace Society Office. He has visited N. York, &
there became a thorough Abolitionist tho'
meeting with no sympathy. His admiration
of Mr. Garrison is most devoted. He writes
well, is very intelligent, fully versed in the
Abol. Movement, & almost too ~~an~~ ^{able} ~~unlike~~
tous as a defender of the "Garrison party," &
denouncer of the party here who talk of the
"infidel Abolitionists." He is happily an
intimate friend of Mr. Channing's, & I
think the latter has gained much useful
information from Chappin. He is now at
Manchester carrying out some objects of the
Anti Peace Conference in that town, but is
talking of wherever he goes, & removing
prejudices against your Society. He is a
most valuable ally, & seems highly in-
spired, both as regards his information,
clear views, & earnest prologandism -
In the "Am. Baptist" of Feb. 17 there is a letter
from Ed. Matthews describing an excellent
letter of Mr. Chappin in the N. Advertiser.
Mr. Chappin charged me, whenever I wrote
to Boston, to offer his respectful & affection-
ate regards to Mr. Garrison. With your every
thanks!

Find the Resolutions of Binney & Co
against Dr. Matthews are in the
August Reporter. I wish you wd refer to
them, & see Schell's bitter notice of the
transaction. Benson, who is so lauded
there, & was announced by some of E. M.'s
judges as remaining in England to collect
£1000, ~~was~~ very soon after this meeting
retreated precipitately to the U.S. sailing
^{having been attacked by some Americans in the Dover}
with ship, Weston. I wish the Lib: & Standard
could see it to be desirable to make some
allusion to the cruel treatment Mr. M. has
met with in England. Mr. Brock is an
eminent man in the Baptist Denomin.
Mr. Binney among the Independent Chrs: I
have little doubt neither looked into the affair
on which they endeavoured to destroy E. M.'s
reputation, but were entirely misled by
Schell. That he was anxious obtain some
personal benefit by the same arrangements
he has brought about, seems pretty well de-
monstrated by subsequent events. Many of
the colored people in Canada are so hostile
to him, that it is a question if he will have
a quiet berth there, should he go.

I hope Mr. Stone will do good here in some
way. It will not be in the way we desire. This

clear I think that her she means to align all
sympathy with the Am. Ant. Soc. & will fall
into the hands of the large new Society in
Glasgow supported by Free Church Ministers
which denounces the Boston Bazaar & the
infidel Abol. I do not however think it will
be wise for us to start any probable coils of
this kind, but to watch her course, accept &
defence what is useful in it, & make no
attack unless some great principle is being
compromised or repudiated.

Tell Mr. Quincy with my kind regards,
that I never lose an opportunity of inquiring
about the De Quincy family. Some friend of
mine knew the father of the present one (the
writer) some 50 years ago at Clifton.

My. has for some time some accident you
had met with. I trust nothing serious.

Mr. Garrison is right in watching the next
half dozen Nos of the "Reporter". By that time
we shall be all be able to judge something
of the future. The Advocate cannot be
"scattered": depend upon it so long as it is
needed it will go on. There can be no question
that its establishment has had much to do
with the change in the B. & F. A. S. The Com. feel
there is now a vehicle for showing up any of
their meaner or short-coming. I believe

Mr. Cham: feels the Advocate to be his most
valuable ally. Don't think us too "coo-pious"
The sarcastic sneer, & the rough denunciations
will English readers. Truth must not be com-
promised or hidden, but put forth in unoffending
words. My daughter joins me in kind regards
yourself Mr May & family. Offer our warmest
remembrances to our many un-named, but
not forgotten friends. Ever sincerely yours
J. B. Estlin

We have just received an interesting letter from
Wm. A. G. York.

Mr. Estlin has had a most interesting letter
from Mr. Stone of which we have been allowed
a copy, & of which we are making good use. G. A.
wrote to us at our L. S. office, & said he wd
give £50 for it as ~~it~~ a speculation.

Can you learn for me any particulars
about a Mr. Ezra Weston living ~~now~~ formerly
at Boston, partly at Duxbury? He was edu-
cated for the bar; had property, never prac-
tised much; was a great deal in Europe.
He had brother Alder Weston, living in
Boston. It is supposed Ezra Weston died last
November: & the purpose of the inquiry is,
to learn how he disposed of his property